

Food Chains:

- every organism within an ecosystem provides energy for other organisms
- an easy way of showing this is a food chain

Food Chain = a step-by-step sequence linking organisms that feed on each other. They start with a food source and continue with a sequence of consumers.

A. Food Source -

1. producer (autotrophs) = an organism that uses photosynthesis or another chemical synthesis to make food

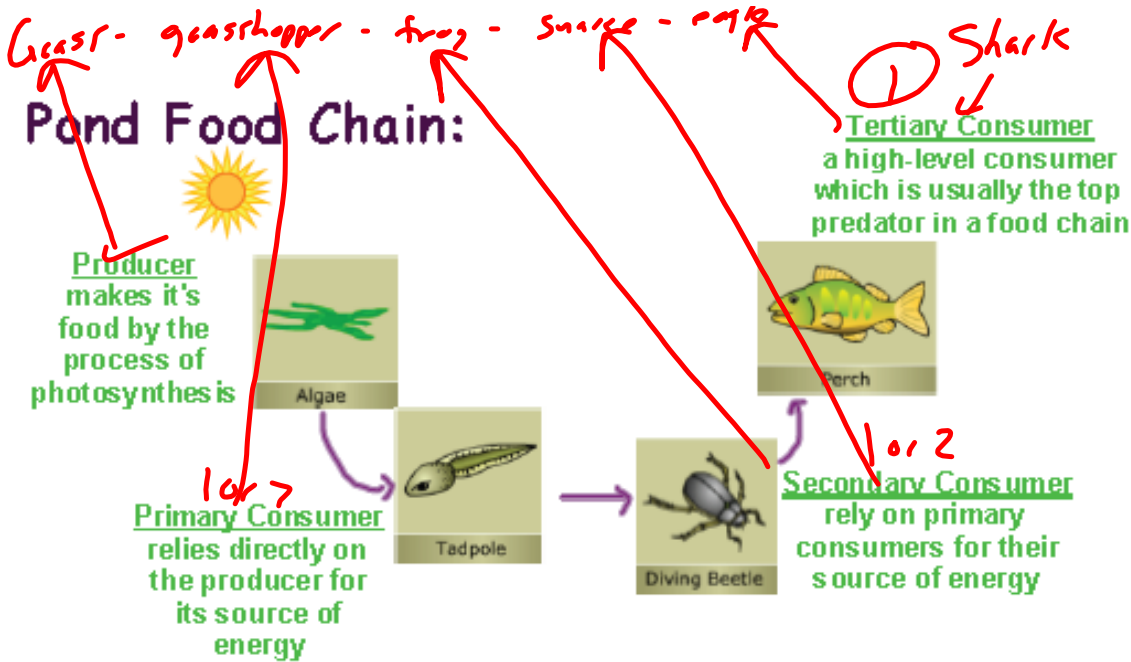
Ex: plants; algae; some types of bacteria

2. detritus = waste from plants and animals including dead waste

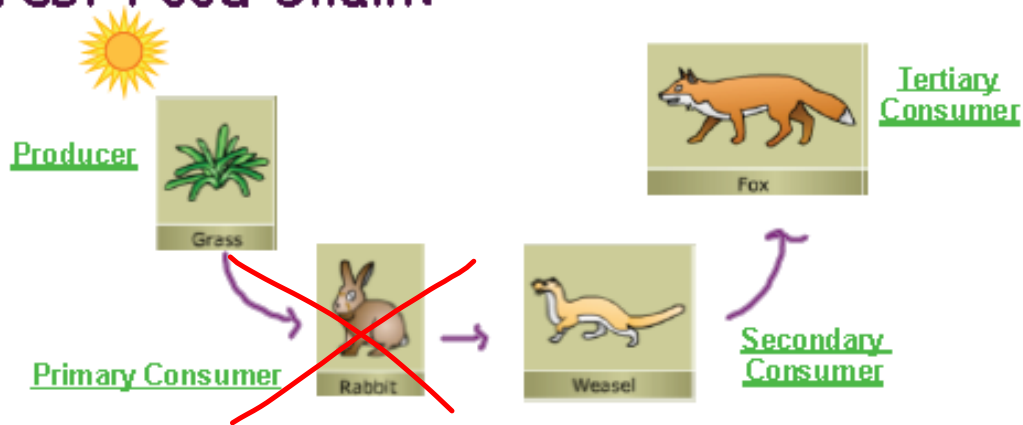
Ex: feces; dead plants or animals

B Consumers (heterotrophs)-

an organism that must eat producers or other consumers to survive as they are unable to make their own food



Forest Food Chain:



Food Chains and Food Webs

Vocabulary:

1. Producer/Autotroph

- photosynthesis / makes its own food

2. Trophic Level: - feeding level

3. Primary Consumer:

herbivore eats plants / producer

4. Secondary Consumer:

Carnivore - eat primary consumer

5. Top or Tertiary Consumer:

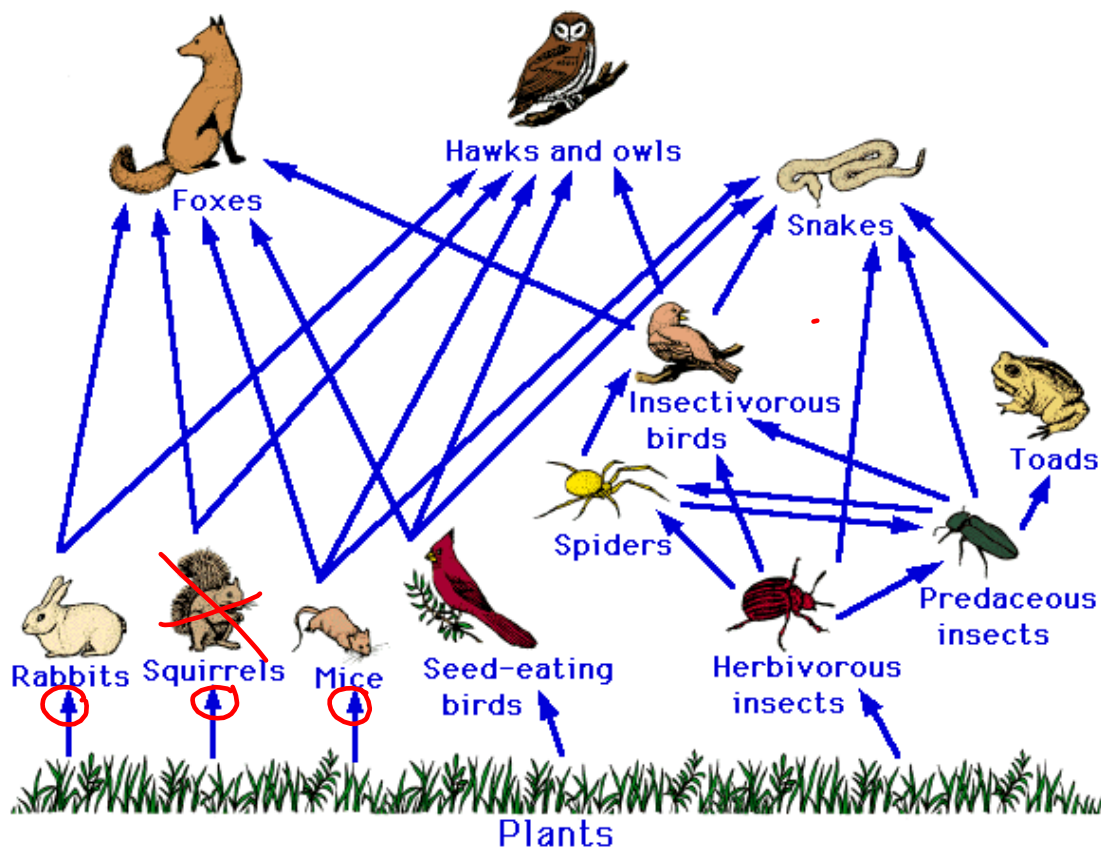
Carnivore > No natural enemies
Omnivore

Food Web

a more realistic representation of what occurs in an ecosystem

displays several food chains that are interconnected to show how energy is passed through an ecosystem

Fungus



* Remember the \longrightarrow
always points toward the consumer

1. What would happen if the seed eating birds disappeared?

2. What would happen if the snakes disappeared?

3. What would happen if extra spiders were added?

4. Who are the primary consumers?

Classwork/Homework

Complete assignment on food chains/webs